

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 3 Kuskokwim River Subsistence Fishing Restrictions Emergency Order 2

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for subsistence salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim River Drainage.

Effective 12:01 a.m., Sunday, June 10, 2012 until 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 16, 2012 subsistence Chinook salmon fishing with hook and line gear is closed and subsistence fishing is restricted to the use of gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh not exceeding 60-feet in length in the Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B. This area is defined as, that portion of the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries upstream from a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to Popokamiut, to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located between the Kialik and Johnson Rivers. This area is also known as the Lower Section of commercial fishing Subdistrict 1-B. See the following map for more detailed information of the Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B.

The current Bethel Test Fishery catch per unit effort indicates that there are not enough Chinook salmon to achieve the 2012 Chinook salmon Management Objective that was agreed upon by the Department, the Federal Inseason Manager, and was supported by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group). During the Friday, June 8, Working Group meeting there was a joint recommendation from the Department and the Federal Inseason Manager to initiate a 7-day rolling closure effective on Sunday, June 10, 2012 at 12:01 a.m. in the Lower Section of Subdistrict 1-B. The Working Group voted unanimously to support the joint recommendation.

The Department will announce subsistence restrictions in further upriver sections of the Kuskokwim River in subsequent News Releases.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office and through local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

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